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Atty. Dkt. No. 040373/0255

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kazuo ISHII

Title: OPTICAL SYMBOL READING DEVICE

Appl. No.: 09/320,457

Filing Date: 05/27/1999

Examiner: J. Fureman

Art Unit: 2876

Commissioner for Patents
Box NON-FEE AMENDMENT
Washington, D.C. 20231

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G. Stutz
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APR -8 2002
TC 2800 MAIL ROOM

AMENDMENT & REPLY

Sir:

This communication is responsive to the Office Action dated January 15, 2002, concerning the above-referenced patent application.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please replace claim 1 with the following rewritten version of the same claim, as amended. The changes are shown explicitly in the attached "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made." Further, please add new claims 7-10.

1. (Thrice Amended) An optical symbol reading device comprising:
an image data input section including a front surface symbol reading device and back surface symbol reading device, an image data input unit for receiving a bar code label, characters, symbols, or image data on an article that is moved by a conveyor, and an image data input focus point modifier;
an article detector for detecting that said article has entered a read zone;
an interpreter for converting electric signals from said image data input section to numbers or characters; an interpretation result output section for outputting the interpretation results of said interpreter to an external device;